

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RABAT 03697 071236Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /109 W

-----085812 071300Z /46

R 071203Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2429

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 3697

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG MR MO

SUBJ: PHILLIPS/BP TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN DEEP SEA OFF SAHARA

1. THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION COMPANY (BUREAU DE RECHERCHES ET DE PARTICIPATIONS MINIERES-BRPM) SIGNED TWO EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL OIL FIRMS JULY 4. ONE AGREEMENT WITH PHILLIPS AND BP COVERS DEEP SEA EXPLORATION OF THE SAHARA (EL AYOON AND BOUJDOUR PROVINCES). SECOND ACCORD IS FOR CONTINUATION OF WORK OFF-SHORE WEST OF ESSAOUIRA BY CONSORTIUM OF PHILLIPS, BP, GETTY OIL AND AGIP.

2. AGREEMENT WITH BRPM FOR SAHARA DEEP SEA EXPLORATION IS A SEISMIC OPTION FOR SEVEN BLOCKS TOTALLING 35,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS AND RUNS FOR 18 MONTHS WITH NO OBLIGATION TO DRILL. SIMULTANEOUS WITH SIGNING, PHILLIPS/BP/BRPM GROUP FILED FORMAL APPLICATION WITH GOM FOR CONCESSION, WHICH PHILLIPS ASSURED WAS ONLY A FORMALITY. AGREEMENT IS STANDARD FOR BRPM PROVIDING FOR FOREIGN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RABAT 03697 071236Z

PARTNERS TO FOOT EXPLORATION EXPENSES WHICH ARE REPAID FROM FIRST PROCEEDS IF COMMERCIAL DEPOSITS FOUND. ALSO, LETTER WAS SIGNED BY BP, PHILLIPS AND BRPM ASSURING THAT NO PARTY TO CONTRACT HAD OBJECTIONS TO BP SELLING PART OF ITS SHARE TO GULF GEM DIVISION SHOULD THE GROUP DECIDE TO DRILL.

3. SECOND AGREEMENT WITH PHILLIPS, PB, AGIP AND GETTY IS FOR 2 BLOCKS (4,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS) OFF ESSAOUIRA FOR WHICH BRPM ALREADY HAS GOM CONCESSION. THIS CONTRACT CONTAINS STANDARD BRPM ARRANGEMENT DESCRIBED ABOVE AND IS ALSO A SIESMIC OPTION NOT REQUIRING DRILLING BY FOREIGN PARTNERS. CONTRACT IS FOR A CONTINUATION OF WORK ALREADY DONE IN ADJOINING CONCESSION BLOCKS.

4. MINISTER OF COMMERCE GHISSASSI ATTENDED SIGNING CEREMONY AND NOTED IN HIS SPEECH THAT THIS WAS FIRST OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENT SIGNED SINCE QUOTE LIBERATION OF OUR SAHARAN PROVINCES UNQUOTE.

5. SIMILAR AGREEMENT TO EXPLORE OFFSHORE MAURITANIAN SAHARA ALSO SIGNED BY PHILLIPS WHICH HAS HAD TO DELAY OPERATIONS PENDING RATIFICATION OF CONCESSION BY PARLIAMENT.

6. LOCAL PHILLIPS REP HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MENTIONED THAT GOM NOW OFFERING QUOTE THE BEST DEAL IN WORLD UNQUOTE FOR OIL EXPLORATION AND THAT GEOLOGY OFFSHORE APPEARS QUITE PROMISING FOR PETROLEUM. NEW ALLOCATIONS BRING VIRTUALLY ENTIRE ATLANTIC COAST OF MOROCCO UNDER EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS.
ANDERSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, PETROLEUM, OFFSHORE DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT03697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0381
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770782/aaaactoi.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a58a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1936792
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILLIPS/BP TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN DEEP SEA OFF SAHARA
TAGS: ENRG, MR, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a58a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009